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No. 21.



## A Defense of the "Detestable" Bee-Space.

BY W. Z. HUTCHINSON.

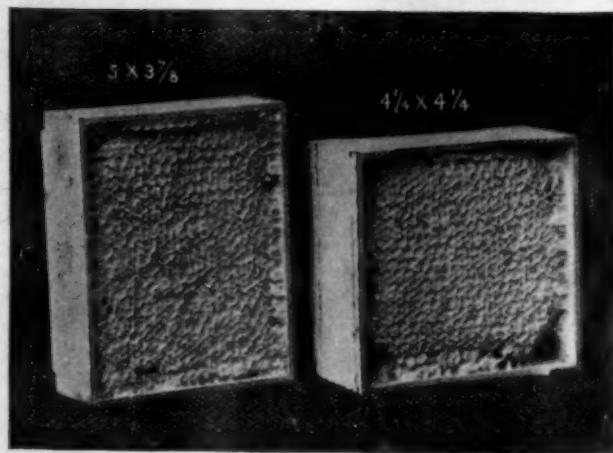
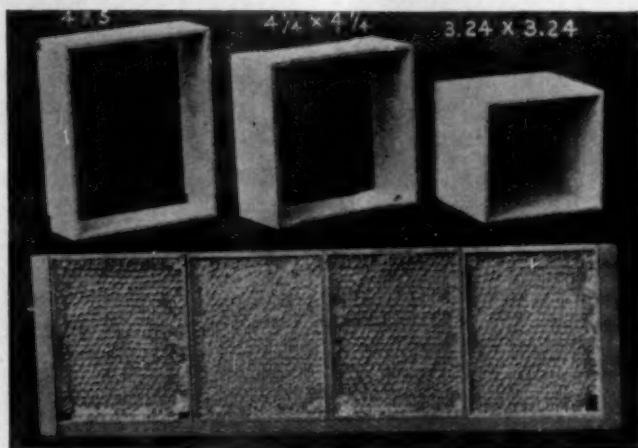
In the American Bee Journal for April 29, I find an article in which the writer severely and unjustly condemns the bee-space that has so nearly universally come into use. The great objection brought against these spaces by this writer, who signs himself "Common-Sense Bee-Keeping," is that they allow the escape of heat. If the heat rises and escapes from between two combs, pray where does it escape to? Into the adjoining spaces, of course—where else can it go? If the heat from one space escapes into the adjoining spaces, and that from the adjoining spaces escapes into the first-mentioned space, where does the loss come in? The illustration about the heat escaping from a hen's nest, if there were a lot of holes in its bottom, is not a parallel case, as in that case the heat escapes into the open air and is lost, while in the bee-hive the heat is still in the hive.

I know that our "common-sense" friend says that the heat escapes over into the farther corners of the hive away from the bees, and that it there "condenses and wastes." I am at a loss to know what he means by its "condensing." I know that steam can be condensed into water, or that we can condense the rays of the sun by passing them through a lens, etc., but I fail to understand how heat can be "condensed" if it escapes into the corner of a bee-hive.

When the weather is cold, or even cool, a colony of bees contracts, the outer part being especially compact, thus forming a sort of covering, or natural hive, as Cheshire calls it, and inside this crust of bees the temperature may be, and often is, raised to over 90°, while the outside is below the freezing point. If we could make a hive that was exactly the size and shape of a contracted cluster or colony of bees, and thus have the bees completely fill it, there would be no need of this crust or natural hive of bees; but this would be well-nigh impossible, as the clusters would vary so in size. When a colony is compactly clustered—when its outside is thus covered with this crust or living hive—some heat is, of course, radiated from the cluster. This rises until it strikes the ceiling of the hive, or whatever is over the cluster; but, as I have already asked, what difference does it make whether the heat between any two combs rises by itself and then spreads out

until it reaches the outside wall of the hive, or if the heat from all of the spaces joins in a body and spreads out until it reaches the walls of the hive? It is possible that there is a difference, but I fail to see it.

But let us suppose, for argument's sake, that there is a difference—it would be better to cover the brood-nest in winter and spring with a sheet of enameled cloth, and a chaff cushion over that, and even go to the trouble of inverting each



Square vs. Oblong Sections.—See page 329.

hive at the beginning of winter and pushing a thin board or cushion up at the ends of open-end frames so as to make them close-fitting; it would be infinitely better to go to all of this trouble than to attempt to handle bees all through the working season with no bee-spaces. How any one who has had

practical experience with bees could think of such a thing as putting the sections right down on the tops of the brood-frames, and one tier of sections down upon another, is beyond my comprehension. There is certainly no call for it on the score of retaining the heat, as there is heat enough and to spare during the honey harvest.

Take off the cover to a bee-hive. Look down upon the top-bars of the frames. See how they are covered with bees. Now think of setting a case of sections right down on those bees and crushing them! Suppose, further, that the section-case has been on the hive, and is occupied with bees, and the bottoms of the sections are covered with bees. These, too, will be crushed when the case is set down. Of course, these bees can be driven back somewhat with smoke, but by the time that the smoker is set down and the section-case picked up and ready to be put in place, a goodly share of the bees are back again on the outside. The fewest bees will be killed by sliding the case on instead of setting it down, but even then many bees will be caught by the heads, legs, etc., and mangled to death.

But this is not all; wherever these sections or frames come in contact, there will be a deposit of propolis, daubing up everything and sticking them together, and, unless wide frames are used, there will be a big job of cleaning the propolis off the sections when crating for the market. With a bee-space all this is avoided.

I know that once or twice before some one has advocated "continuous combs and continuous passage-ways," but such advocacy has always been short-lived.

A bee-space is well-nigh a necessity in modern bee-culture, even if it did possess some drawbacks, which I have failed to find in all of my bee-keeping.

Genesee Co., Mich.



### Some Things Learned Last Season.

BY L. M. WILLIS.

I notice on page 232 an invitation to a sort of "experience meeting," and as I always like to "speak in meeting," I shall accept the invitation, but would like to suggest, as an amendment, that we do not all wait till the end of the season. What some of us learned in 1896 may be the very thing that somebody wants to know to help him through this season.

I opened the season of 1896 with 31 colonies in 8-frame hives, increased to 63, and took off about 2,500 pounds of honey, 1,800 of which was in one-pound sections; the balance was extracted. I sold 13 colonies, and put 50 into cold storage; 49 of them came through all right; which is five times that my cold-storage plan has worked successfully.

I learned in 1896 that all commission-men are not rascals. I sold some of my crop to one who did just as he agreed in every particular.

I learned that from an artistic point of view the sections open on all four sides are by far the most attractive, and when the scalloped wood separator is used with them we have a package of honey as near perfection as we need it. Another point in its favor, and an important one, is that the bees can work lengthwise of the super, which is the nearest like the brood-nest. Without separators there will be fewer bulged sections. Again, it is less trouble to put foundation into them, as they will work either side up. Sections open on two sides look clumsy compared with them, and one has to keep his thinking cap with him all the time to avoid getting the foundation on the wrong side. Try some of the open-four-side sections this season and report result.

For scraping sections a glazier's putty-knife is worth its price many times over. Another good article for all kinds of scraping, such as bottom-boards, inside of hives and frames, as well as sections, is a cabinet maker's scraper, which is a flat piece of tempered steel 1/16 of an inch thick, and of

different sizes. The one I use is 3x5 inches, square cornered. Both of these tools can be kept sharp by filing square across the edge, and work similar to a plane, by using the corners for the work. Try them.

I have learned that we need a bee-escape with several outlets. A little piece of burr comb sometimes turns a bee-escape into a bee-trap, and if the day and night following its use are sultry and hot, a super full of smothered bees will be the result.

I have learned, also, that an entrance-guard will shut out too much fresh air on a hot day, and, if ventilation is not given above, you may drown your bees in their own sweat.

I have learned, too, that the American Bee Journal is a very great help to me all through the year. I have kept bees seven years, and am an enthusiast—I guess that is the right word; any way I like bees—on the subject; and have been well paid for all the time given to them.

Clark Co., Wis.



### Purity of Italian Queens and Drones.

BY JOHN M'ARTHUR.

Purity of Italian queens and drones is a question that has been propounded of late, and answered by such veterans as Dr. C. C. Miller, Dr. J. P. H. Brown, and Dr. Gallup. The latter, joining with his brother professionals, states his ideas of purity of queens and drones. From what he says, those of us who are laboring towards the improvement of *Apis mellifica* had better stop and waste no more of our valuable time in that direction, because his idea of purity is already reached; what we are doing now is towards the production of mongrels, so says the Doctor on page 550 of the Bee Journal for 1895. On page 743 (1896), the following appears:

"If we rear queens without proper nourishment or lack of warmth, we can rear black queens from the very best market mothers. A queen-cell may be so located in the hive that a few days, just at the right age, of cool, damp, rainy weather will change the queen's color, yet it does not affect her purity."

This is certainly something new to the scientific world, and a wonder how this should have escaped the keen eyes of Huber and Darwin. I have never observed, nor ever read of those sudden changes in Nature. I admit a certain amount of flexibility or pliancy—climate, food and habit may produce a tendency to change. No matter how fixt the different characteristics may be when left in Nature's hand, those changes are very slow, but accurate; but when in a state of domestication they occur oftener, and to a much greater extent. Our bees, altho domesticated, are only to a certain extent under our control—we cannot control the mating of them, and never will. The nearest approach to that is isolation, so that the sudden changes referred to cannot be produced by their domestication, but an application of the physiological laws or the laws of breeding, may explain why those black queens were produced, from the fact that the mother may or may not have been pure; she certainly had not been purely mated, because the Doctor says, "This can be done from the very best market mothers."

Now if we have a pure yellow queen, and from a line of ancestors that for many generations had shown those market characteristics mated to a pure drone whose ancestors had the same characteristics, well defined, it is in opposition to Nature to expect anything but like to beget like; the progeny always and everywhere resemble their parents, so the pure yellow queen having been mated to a pure black drone, the results would be a mixt progeny, a percentage being yellow, the majority black, because the black fathers had a line of ancestors extending possibly to thousands of generations unbroken, whereas the yellow mother may not have had a line of ancestors extending to ten generations unbroken, owing to the pre-



dominating influence of the blacks. This is the more reasonable cause of accounting for the production of black queens, the progeny of yellow. According to Dr. Gallup's reasoning, Nature would be disordered, and creatures who bring forth their young in rainy or cold seasons, if the parents were white, the offspring would be black, and those of us who are poorly fed in those hard pinching times, may look for colored progeny as the result. If the Doctor will take the trouble to read this article, and digest it thoroughly, he will, if not wedded to pet theories, or blinded by self-interest like many others, be convinced that he has written erroneously.

In describing Aaron Benedict's experience on Kelley's Island, in Lake Erie, with progeny from his first imported queen, the Doctor says: "Queens reared from her were as black as crows, and he decided the mother queen was worthless, and destroyed her. I had quite a discussion with him in N. C. Mitchell's journal, but could not make him own up, for if you convince a man against his will, he is of the same opinion still. So I dropt him in disgust." Possibly the Doctor may have to be left where he left Aaron Benedict. Aaron was right, tho, and so am I.

On page 574 of the Bee Journal for 1895, are some questions on the purity of Italian bees by A. P. L., of Batesburgh, S. C., and answered by Dr. J. P. H. Brown, who says: "I you wish to keep your bees pure, you should have all Italian drones in a radius of four miles." This is sound advice. Now the question is, What constitutes an Italian drone? Is an Italian drone black, brown, mottled, or what color is he? He should be of some fixt type, because, as a rule, the queens are yellow or bronze, and the Italian worker, if pure, must have three yellow bands, and every one so. Now when there is such an exactness in fixing the type of the worker why not fix on a type for the parent with the same exactness? It seems to me more reasonable to look to the drone for a type than to the worker, because parthenogenesis in the queen removes the effect of a union with a second parent, as far as the production of drones is concerned, thereby making doubly sure the fixedness of every characteristic, especially color. The drone should be an exact copy or type of the mother, if she is herself pure or of pure origin. That is to say, if the queen shows three or more yellow bands, the balance of the abdominal segments being bronze the drone should be similarly marked, because, as has already been said, like begets like; the drone having no father, the queen taking the role of both father and mother.

From this it will at once be seen that there should be no uncertainty as to what color the drone should be. If the mother is yellow and of pure origin the drone will be of the same type, just the same as a black queen of pure origin the drones will be black.

The Doctor says: "There is not one queen in fifty that will invariably duplicate herself in marking in her queen progeny." The Doctor, perhaps, is not aware of the fact that every queen that has been produced on Toronto Island for the past three years, not only duplicated themselves invariably in markings in queen progeny, but in workers and drones also, the drones being as yellow as the queens. I hope to be excused for thus writing, because the Doctor seems to ignore invariable yellowness as the test of purity in the yellow race. He will admit invariable blackness as the test of purity of our native bees. We all know the results of a pure black queen mated to a pure black drone—black offspring, of course—queen, workers, and drones. Then why should not a pure yellow queen, mated to a pure yellow drone, produce similar results, all things being equal?

Having toucht slightly on the law of similarity, we come now to a second law, viz.: variation or divergence, by which that of similarity is greatly modified. All organic beings, whether plants or animals, possess a certain flexibility or

pliancy of organization rendering them capable of change to a greater or less extent. Climate, food, and habit are the principal causes of variation which are known to be in any marked degree under the control of man. It would be useless for us to speculate here upon the laws that govern variation. The fact that these exist is what the breeder has to deal with, and a most important one it is, for it is this chiefly which makes hereditary transmission the problem that it is.

The knowledge of this law gives us a clue to the causes of many disappointments, of which practical breeders often complain, and many variations otherwise unaccounted for, such as red heads, black heads, white heads, and cock-eyed babies appearing in our families, which the Doctor refers to. A knowledge of this law suggests particular caution as to the first male employed in the coupling of animals. It will at once be seen we have nothing to fear from this in the mating of queens—once mated, always mated.

It is a known law among breeders that whenever a pure female of any breed has been pregnant to an animal of a different breed, such pregnant animal is a cross ever after, and forever becomes incapable of producing pure stock of any kind. From this cause has arisen many new varieties or types, so that those who are now engaged in the perfecting of *Apis mellifica* can rest assured that all risks are removed as far as often mating is concerned in the queen, removing one of the greatest difficulties that the breeders of live stock has to contend with.

From what has been said it will be needless to give illustrations, of which a journal could be filled, personally observed and by others, arising out of this law, and it applies not only to our bees and other domestics, but let us bring it home to ourselves. I see nothing more mongrel in nature than some of the human family. Were the physiological laws, or laws of breeding, better understood and more widely diffused among all classes, crime and disease would disappear, prisons and asylums would be removed, doctors, lawyers, and ministers would be less required. Man would become physically, mentally, and morally improved—in fact, such would be the change in a few generations that many would be led to believe the Millennium had dawned. This should be taught in our common schools of learning, and preached from the pulpit. Please pardon me for digressing.

On this continent our bees, known as "natives," like ourselves, are of mixt foreign origin, and have been bred with no care in selection, but crost in every possible way. They possess no fixt hereditary traits, and altho among them are many of respectable qualities, and which possess desirable characteristics, they cannot be relied upon as breeders to perpetuate like excellence in their progeny. Instead of constancy there is continual breeding back, exhibiting the undesirable traits of inferior ancestors. That a breed might be established out of this chaos, by careful selection, aided by judicious crossing with more recent importations fully as good as any now existing, is not to be doubted. To accomplish this perfect isolation has to be sought, and then the work to be in the hands of those who possess the skill, enthusiasm, ample means, and indomitable perseverance requisite to success.

The deprest times makes it a very difficult matter for one with limited means to carry on an enterprise of this kind. It just means a lifetime devoted to close observation and careful study, such as Charles Colling, Mason, Bates, Boothe, and Bakewell conducted in the improvement of our cattle, sheep, and our other domestics. No adequate estimate could be made of the advantages accruing from the labors of those worthy men—advantages we have all shared in—by whose indomitable perseverance and skill a very extensive portion of the world has been blest. Such labors, whether in the improvement of our bees or other domestics, is as much a triumph of science and skill as the construction of a railroad,

a steamship, an electric telegraph, or any work of architecture. If any doubt this, let him ponder the history of those breeds of animals which have made Great Britain the stock-nursery of the world to-day. Let him note the patient industry, the genius and application which have been put forth during this century, on this continent, to bring them to the condition they have attained, and their doubts must cease.

Such a field is certainly open for the improvement of our bees. Scarcely a paper comes to hand but contains something encouraging on this line. I congratulate Prof. A. J. Cook for that masterly article on page 759 of the Bee Journal for 1896. Such articles invigorate and renew our courage, making us more willing to wait, and go on unmindful of what the public think or the market desires, looking for our reward in the away-off future.

Ontario, Canada.

[Concluded next week.]



### Bee-Escapes—Reasons for and Against.

BY DR. C. C. MILLER.

MR. EDITOR:—On page 289, your interesting South African correspondent raises the question as to why there should be such wide divergence of opinion among bee-keepers, illustrating it by pitting Mr. Simmins and myself as at opposite extremes concerning bee-escapes, practically saying that I laud them sky-high. I don't know just what I may have said in some unguarded moment that should have given Mr. Deacon such an impression, but as a matter of fact I do not use a bee-escape upon a hive. I know that many of the best bee-keepers—I think a large majority of them—think highly of them, but they don't suit my circumstances.

Mr. Simmins gives as one of the most forcible arguments against their use the fact that the bees, frightened by the lifting of the super, make countless pin-holes in the cappings. This affords another illustration as to difference of opinion, for after considerable experimenting with them I insist that bees do nothing of the kind. Now I'm not going to make faces at Mr. Simmins, or call him names, because his statement does not agree with actual facts in my experience. I have high respect for him as a bee-keeper of ability and veracity. Because I have seen no holes gnawed in the cappings, I have no right to say he has never seen anything of the kind. Very likely the explanation is the difference in our bees. I aim to keep Italians. I think he does not.

My reasons for not using escapes are different from his. I can't wait for them. When I go to an out-apiary I want to take home with me the honey I take off that day. I don't want to be obliged to make an extra trip next day to go back after the cleared supers. Even in the home apiary I want to finish up the same day, for most likely I want to start off early the next morning for a full day's work in an out-apiary. If it suited me to do the work on parts of two different days, I should not like to leave the escapes on a hive over night, for all the boys in my neighborhood don't go to Sunday-school, and the temptation to carry off a super emptied of bees would be much greater than if the same super were defended by a thousand poisoned javelins.

McHenry Co., Ill.



### California Again—Blanketing Bees.

BY F. A. GEMMILL.

I see that Messrs. Brodbeck and Gallup—who are among my California friends—contribute occasionally to the American Bee Journal. I liked California when there, and like it still.

I observed in the California Cultivator for April, which was kindly sent me by Dr. Gallup, that I am reported as blanketing bees here in Ontario, Canada, where it is cold enough for a bear to wear overshoes; that the outlook for a

good crop the coming season is promising; and that I also sigh for a re-visit to the land of perennial flowers, where milk and honey flow. Yes, Mr. Levering, that is correct; but I am not so "dead struck" on California that I cannot make a success of apiculture here, although I am accused of blanketing bees in winter!

Say, Mr. Editor, just you whisper in the ears of those milk-and-honey bee-keepers, through the columns of the American Bee Journal, that this Canadian tenderfoot expects to have "just a lovely time" this summer among his bees, and also procure a No. 1 crop of comb honey from his 92 colonies, which wintered without the loss of a single colony, and without blankets, either! They were of course packed with forest leaves, and each colony had a good supply of well-ripened, sealed stores, with slight upward ventilation through a propolized quilt, or a 3/4-inch pine board for a cover, over which was 18 inches of leaves, well prest down. There was an air-space between the top of the leaves and the cases to the outside packing case. The hive entrances were 3/4 by 3 inches. That was the secret with me, and any one can do the same thing if he tries.

By the way, why did those Californians send Mr. Alpaugh home? Yes, he has actually returned to Canada, and paid me a visit a few days ago while on his tour prospecting for a location to again settle in his native clime. Was it the poor seasons of late in California that discouraged him? My inquiry only brought out a submerged reply, to the effect that fleas, scorpions, rattle-snakes, tarantulas, lizards, lions and grizzly bears were numerous. Said information seemed to please my wife so much that she at once said, "Now, Frank, I thought there was something there besides oranges, fruits, flowers, and perpetual sunshine! I don't care, I won't go one foot to such a country!" I am, however, hoping that she will some day go, and take both her feet with her, if it is only to see the country.

Of course, I saw a lion and a bear, too, but they were in cages on the top of Mount Lowe, and all the other things were on card-boards, sold in curiosity shops, and could not bite a little bit—for they were dead.

Ontario, Canada, May 3.

**New Union and the Bee Journal.**—In order to help our subscribers, and also the United States Bee-keepers' Union at the same time, we have decided to offer a year's subscription to the American Bee Journal and a year's membership dues in the New Union, both together, for \$1.75. But it must be understood that in order to get this rate, all arrearages of subscriptions must be paid, and the \$1.75 rate to apply on advance subscription.

Now send us your orders, and we will attend to turning over the \$1.00 membership fee to the New Union, on each subscription to the Bee Journal as per the above offer. This ought to add 500 members to the New Union by June 1. If it does, our contribution will be just \$125.

Now, if you want to see the New Union succeed in its grand work, in the interest of all the bee-keepers, come on with your cash. General Manager Secor is just aching to do his part whenever he sees sufficient funds in the treasury to pay the bills.

### The Horse—How to Break and Handle.—

This is a pamphlet of 32 pages, giving complete instructions for breaking and educating colts, teaching horses to drive, and for use under the saddle, together with many instructions which have never before been published, and which are the result of the author's experience covering a period of 20 years. By Prof. Wm. Mullen, with whom the editor of the Bee Journal is personally acquainted. Price, postpaid, 20 cents; or given as a premium for sending us one new subscriber to the Bee Journal for the rest of the year at 50 cents.

**Every Present Subscriber** of the Bee Journal should be an agent for it, and get all others possible to subscribe for it. See offer above.



# CONVENTION PROCEEDINGS

Report of the North American Convention Held  
at St. Joseph, Mo., Oct. 10-12, 1894.

REPORTED BY LOUIS R. LIGHTON.

THIRD DAY—MORNING SESSION.

[Continued from page 310.]

The next on the program was the annual address by the President, which was delivered as follows, by Rev. E. T. Abbott:

THE PRESIDENT'S ANNUAL ADDRESS.

*Ladies and Gentlemen, and Fellow Bee-Keepers:*

I had hoped that I would get 15 or 20 minutes to myself that I might jot down a few things which have past through my mind during the last five or six weeks, and some things which have past through it since you came here. You who have been here and seen what I have had on my shoulders know that I have not had much time for anything of the kind, as I have felt it my duty to give myself up to your comfort, and to aid you in every way I possibly could. I have just taken time to go to my office and see what was there, but have let my business alone, and given myself entirely to the meeting. I have been absent from the city for a few weeks, and work has so accumulated that it was impossible for me to give any time to a formal address.

I hardly ever make an apology, as I generally tell what I know; and, when I run out of things I know, I tell what I do not know.

My experience among bee-keepers, and, in fact, among people engaged in every kind of industry, has thoroughly demonstrated to me the fact that business in this country in the future must be done on closer lines and a more economical basis; there can be no question about that. We have enjoyed the benefit of this great and wonderful country of ours without thinking of the possibility of there being any change, or of adverse times coming upon us; and now that they have come on us, we find ourselves unprepared for them, or at least many of us are, and the result is that all such have been made to suffer. I know how it has been in other cities when there was a few financial failures, and some of the banks had to close, but we have had nothing of the kind here. We had a run on one of our banks, but it did not affect it, as it was prepared for such an emergency, and then some of us interested ourselves in the bank's welfare, appealed to the men and women to go home and use good judgment, and we succeeded in getting them to do so, and the scare past off, and we got rid of a serious financial embarrassment; but, notwithstanding this, the people who are in debt, and who have not learned to do business on a cash basis, have suffered here as well as in other places.

Here is a lesson to the bee-keepers—not only the idea of paying cash for a thing when they get it, but the idea of doing all business on a cash basis—the idea of working just as if they expected something of the kind to come every year. I know what would be my condition, financially, if I had not done business along these lines for the last ten years. The reason I make these remarks is, the subject of commission-men has been prest on my mind by two or three letters which I have received lately from bee-keepers who wanted this subject brought up at this convention. I was led to make a remark yesterday that I thought needed some explanation, and I think this a good time to do it.

You will remember that I said that the commission business was a "humbug." Now, I did not mean to say by that that our commission-men were "humbugs," or that those of any other city were humbugs. I do not think there is a single man in this business in our city who could not be depended upon to do just what he agreed to do, but at the same time if I had 5,000 pounds of honey to sell, and lived 40 miles from here, I would not ship that honey to any commission-man, unless he bought it before I shipped it, because I do not think that the proper way to do business. If a man is not able, by virtue of some disability, to transact his own business, it may

then be well enough for him to employ a man to sell his goods on commission, but if he feels that he has ordinary push and ordinary business capacity, he would better take his own business in his own hands. For, when he commits his business to others, he is nearly always dissatisfied with the way that the business is conducted. In many cases there is, or may be, no ground for his dissatisfaction, but he will think there is, all the same, and the result is hard feelings.

I know a man who sent a lot of honey to a commission-man in Kansas City, and the merchant held the honey for a long time, and did the best he could with it, as he claimed to me, and finally made a report; and that honey netted the producer two cents per pound—for comb honey! I wrote a letter about it to the commission-man and askt for an explanation, and received what seemed to me a satisfactory one, and I think probably the man did the best he could under the circumstances.

The trouble seemed to be with the man at the other end. He lived a long way from Kansas City, and he did not think of the amount of freight it would cost to get this honey to market; he did not inquire what it would cost to lay that honey down in Kansas City. He did not seem to think of the fact that he was located on a railroad which charged high freight rates, neither did he think of the possibility of that honey arriving in bad condition, as I was told that it did. Now all of these things, of course, affected the net price of the honey. It arrived in bad condition, and the freight was very high, and when this and the commission were taken out there was not much left for the shipper, but the commission merchant was not to blame for this, if he got all he could for the goods.

I shipped a hive once myself, to a man in Tacoma, Wash., and I sent it by the cheapest way I could, but when it got there the freight was \$3.00, and the hive cost only \$1.25. I supposed that the man wanted it, as he sent the money for it when he ordered it, and I supposed also that he had made inquiry what it would cost him to get it, but it turned out in the end that he lost the hive rather than pay the freight. Now this was a mistake on the part of the man who ordered the hive; he was foolish to order a hive so far away without making any inquiry what it would cost him by freight or express to get it, unless he wanted it so badly that he could afford to pay whatever it might cost. But, as to honey, I know in many cases the trouble is with the shipper.

You will infer from what I have said that I do not think the commission-men are bad men, but I do think we make a mistake when we depend on them to sell our goods. I do not think any bee-keeper should permit his honey to leave his own hands until he knows the exact amount of money he is to receive for it. I do not think it requires any extra skill to sell honey; it simply requires that you go about it and do it, and begin at home.

There is another thing I want to speak of, which was suggested to my mind by the Farmers' Institutes, which I think might be a good thing for this Association. I discovered when I attended the first institute this fall, that the Board, through the Secretary, had made arrangements to offer premiums for the best display of nine different articles, such as butter, wheat, corn, etc. The premium was the choice of any agricultural, bee, poultry or general farm paper published in the State. Now, would it not be a wise thing for this Association to take up something of this kind in the shape of premiums? It would increase the circulation of the bee-papers, and be a benefit in many ways, I think. Let the person who gets the premium select the paper he or she wants, and then there can be no trouble about favoring one paper more than another. Of course, the publishers of the papers should put them in to the Association at a low rate.

That is the way the agricultural papers of this State do. It will cost the State of Missouri \$150 or \$200 this year, but this means something. It means the education of the people, it means lifting men to a higher level. So it would be by the distribution of bee-papers; their circulation means the elevation of the bee-keeping fraternity. There is not a bee-paper published in North America but what the reading of it would be helpful. Whatever bee-paper a man reads will lift him up a little. The bee-keeper who fails to read, or does not take any papers, will never succeed. Well, he may succeed after a fashion, but he will never get very much enjoyment out of life. It seems to me that this Association could not do a better thing than to place in the hands of some of these people one of the bee-papers. It would not cost much, and in my opinion the money would be well spent.

I have been thinking of the general public and their relation to this meeting. I do not like to complain of any of my fellow citizens, but I will say I am sorry more of them have not found time to look in upon us, especially the evening of

the reception. I am sorry they have allowed this convention, which stands for so much, which is made up of so much intelligence, to go by without knowing how much it stands for in our great country. But I do not know as I should complain of non-attendance of those who have no financial interest in the industry when there are bee-keepers in and near this city who have not shown their faces in this hall during these meetings. I am sure, however, that they have made a mistake by not attending. Why do they do this? It is simply because they are not alive to the importance of the industry; or at least that is the way it seems to me. Men often say to me, "What is your business?" If they ask me in a certain tone of voice, I tell them it is none of their business, or at least I feel like doing so, if I do not do it. It depends upon the tone of voice whether I deem it proper to give them a direct answer. When I tell some of them that I am a bee-keeper, and deal in bee-keepers' supplies, they say, "Bee-keepers' supplies! Do people buy enough of them so that a man can make a living out of that business? I thought bee-keeping a little business." The looks on such people's faces indicate that they do not know that there has been a thousand pounds of honey gathered in a year in the United States. "Can a man make a living out of this business?" I should say: There is a man in Ohio who employs a hundred people in this business. There is a firm in Missouri that reports having sold \$13,000 worth of bee-goods in one year, and they are only two of a large number who are in the business. When I tell them these things, and show them that this industry stands for something, they say, "Well I did not know that; I never heard of it before." Of course they had not, or they would not have talked in the way they did.

Here I think is a point for the bee-keepers, and I want to bring it out clearly. We should not hold these meetings entirely with a view of educating the bee-keepers, but we should have the general public in mind as well. Because it is just as important that the general public understand what this Association stands for, as it is that the people who have bees understand it. We depend upon the patronage of the public for our living; and, if we do not make them feel that we are of some importance, that we represent the best and purest food on God's green earth, we cannot expect to have them interested in our work, or to buy our goods.

I have met heads of families in this city who had never had a pound of honey in their homes until a few years ago. When I said to them, "Look here; do you know you are feeding your children glucose? Do you know that the sweets which they are eating will rot their teeth and injure their digestion?" They said, "No; I did not know it." But when I gave them the scientific reasons for it, and made them understand how it is, they would say, "Look here; have you any good, pure honey?" When I said, "Yes," they said: "Well, bring me down some." Many such people have become regular customers. This is the way it is all over the country. If we will educate the people along these lines we will create a demand for our honey, and all of the bee-keepers in the business will have all they can do; because you will increase the consumption of the article which they produce, and that means business.

I have tried to advertise this meeting everywhere, and have tried to fill this community full of this business. I told them that we would have some big men here—that we would have Dr. Miller here with his songs and his fun, and that they could not afford to stay away.

I am told that the Associated Press telegraphed here, and said that they wanted to have a good report of the North American every day, and I trust that a report has been sent out through all the various papers in the country. If we keep the general public in mind all the time, it cannot fail to do good.

Just a word now about my official relations to this Association: It is a very difficult matter to preside over a body of men and women who come from various parts of the country with different temperaments, many of them not having any experience with parliamentary rules, and not understanding the courtesies of a parliamentary meeting. I say, it is a very difficult position to be placed in. It is very hard for the presiding officer to be fair at all times, and yet preserve order and common decency, and at the same time do business. All of these things have to be taken into consideration. I have tried to deal as I should wish to be dealt by. I have tried to treat all people alike. I have not been any more disposed to recognize Mr. Root than the most obscure bee-keeper in this country. I have been just as willing to "sit down" on Dr. Miller as on any one else. If I have made mistakes, they have been mistakes of the head rather than the heart. I have never had occasion to study parliamentary rules very much before, but I put a book on the subject in my pocket,

and have studied it carefully for the last three months. I did this so that I might do things with decency and in order. If I have failed to do this it was because I had not brains enough to understand the business. There are limitations to all people's capacity. If a man is only four feet tall, and he can't reach six, he is not to be blamed for it. A great big, tall man ought not to be kicking Dr. Peiro because he is short and fat. It would not be proper.

But, to be serious, there are many things that I might say, but it seems useless. All I have said you have heard before. We don't talk so much to tell people what they don't know, as we do to tell them what they do know. This is the way I talk at Farmers' Institutes. I say, "It is not because you do not know, but because you have fallen into a stagnant condition, and you need somebody to throw stones into the water and splash it about." It gets the scum off from it and kills the wigglers. That is what you want to do with people's brains. They move in certain fixed channels, and the scum gets over them, and you want to throw in a little stone and make a splash now and then, and get them moving. That is what these conventions do.

I want to thank the members for the courtesy they have shown me, and for the disposition they have manifested to observe the rules, and for the kindness of spirit they have displayed while in this city. I want, also, to thank you for the co-operation you have given the chairman, and I trust that we may go home feeling that this meeting has been a profitable one. If anything has seemed to jar on our feelings, or grate on our nerves, just let the jar and rattle of the cars shake it out of us, and we will forget it when we get home, and be just as we were when we started from home, except that we have gotten increased determination to do the right thing, and make a success of any undertaking in which we may engage. It is a theory of mine that a man who breaks stone on a rock-pile the best he possibly can—makes the neatest piles, and the most uniform work—so that the rock is better fitted for the purpose for which it is designed, is doing all he possibly can to make the most out of his opportunities. I believe every man should do that. I do not care where he is, on the rock-pile, in a bank, or the Governor of the State; I don't care what position he occupies in life, if he does the best he knows how, and makes all he possibly can out of his opportunities, that man deserves great credit.

Let us go home, then, determined that we will make the best of all our privileges, and the disappointments may come, let us rise above them, and in the end victory will be ours.

EMERSON T. ABBOTT.

[Continued next week.]

## Questions AND Answers

CONDUCTED BY

DR. C. C. MILLER, MARENGO, ILL.

[Questions may be mailed to the Bee Journal, or to Dr. Miller direct.]

### Transferring from a Box-Hive.

I have an old box-hive containing a very strong colony of bees; the top of the hive will come off easily, but the bottom is nailed tight. When I transfer them, can I drum them out from the top, or will I have to invert the hive and pry off the bottom to drum them out that way? H. W. L.

ANSWER.—They will come up at the top just as well, and probably a little better.

### A Well Droned Colony—Strange Queen for a Swarm.

I have 21 colonies, commencing two years ago with 8.

1. I have one colony that had drones all winter. When the bees had a flight the drones from this hive would fly, too. Not long ago I opened the hive to look for the queen, for I thought they were queenless. But to my surprise they had a very nice, plump queen, worker-brood in all stages, and drones—fully as many as they have in swarming time, and



about one-third drone-comb. What is best to do with this colony? I would like to keep the queen.

2. Will a new swarm accept a strange queen?

F. P. P.

ANSWERS.—1. The case seems unusual. So much as a third of the comb being drone-comb would account for a large number of drones being reared, but it is unusual that they were allowed to live through the winter. Better get rid of so much drone-comb in the hive. Give them in its place frames filled with worker foundation, or if you have no foundation try to get them to build worker-comb. Take away some of their combs that have least drone-comb, giving it temporarily to another colony to care for, and give them frames with starters of worker-comb. As you have left them the combs with the most drone-comb, they will likely build worker. Then take away the drone-combs and return the combs previously removed.

2. I don't know. Perhaps in the confusion of swarming they might accept a strange queen, providing their own was previously removed, but it might not be best to risk a valuable queen in that way.

#### Bees Changed in Color—Swarming.

1. What may be the reason that my bees are black this spring when they were yellow last fall?

2. When they swarm, which queen goes, the old one or the young one?

3. Which are the most proper indications that bees are going to swarm?

Centralia, Iowa.

ANSWERS.—1. The queen has been changed. A change of queens occurs at swarming, and often the old queen is superseded by a young one at the close of the harvest. Of course a queen may be superseded at other times, but perhaps the majority of supersessions occur in the fall. If the young queen meets a black drone, then the workers will be much darker. In very rare cases there may be such a thing as a young queen from another colony getting into the hive, making a greater change than would be possible in case of a daughter taking the place of her mother.

2. In a first swarm the old queen goes with the swarm, leaving no queen in the hive, but several young queens in cells, the first one of which emerges about a week later, going off with a swarm, unless the colony decide not to swarm any more.

3. You can't tell. You can make a very good guess at it if you keep watch of queen-cells and note when the first one is sealed. If everything is favorable you may then look for a swarm within 24 hours. If you find eggs in queen-cells, the bees are likely to swarm within a week or 10 days. But sometimes bees swarm before the queen-cells are sealed, and some even report swarms before queen-cells are started. A second, or after-swarm, may be expected 8 or 10 days after the prime swarm, providing there is any after-swarm, and if no after-swarm issues within 16 days of the time when the prime swarm issued, you need look for no after-swarm.

#### Italianizing Bees—Getting Pure Queens.

1. I have 6 colonies of the common black bees in dove-tailed hives, and want to Italianize them, but as I have never had any experience, will you tell me all about the most successful plan to do this? Would it be better to buy some Italian queens that are fertile, with 3-frame nuclei, and build them up with brood-frames from my old colonies, and not disturb the black queens?

2. Do you consider the Italian bees superior to the blacks?

3. Can you refer me to some reliable bee-man from whom I can purchase Italian queens, and feel assured that I will get pure Italians that have been impregnated by a pure Italian drone?

C. C. C.

ANSWERS.—1. It depends somewhat upon circumstances what is your best course. If you are anxious to increase, or if you do not care for expense, it would be an excellent plan to get 3-frame nuclei and build them up. If you have to send very far for them, expressage will be quite expensive, whereas a queen will be sent by mail a thousand miles just as cheaply as ten. You can get untested queens for the least money, with the likelihood of having most of them pure, and purely mated. By paying perhaps 50 cents more, you can have all tested queens. Perhaps a good plan would be to get one tested and the rest untested. Then you would be sure of having one true to breed from, and for practical work you will

probably find hybrids just as good as pure. But you should have pure blood to breed from, for with black blood all around you, you will find it very difficult to keep Italian blood in the majority. Your text-book will give you full instructions as to introducing, and generally instructions are sent out with each queen.

2. Decidedly. And that's the general opinion of bee-keepers in this country, altho across the sea there are many who prefer blacks. Some think that the blacks in this country are not as good as those in Europe.

3. Probably any one whom you may find in the advertising pages of this Journal would send you just such a queen as you describe, if you order from him a "tested queen."

#### The Harding Non-Swarming Device.

Is the Harding non-swarming device an improvement on the Langdon? and has the latter proved a success? I've seen nothing said about it lately.

INDIANA.

ANSWER.—Seldom has any implement come before the bee-keeping fraternity in which were centered such high hopes as in the Langdon non-swarmers. But nothing is said about it lately, and those who tried it did not find it to succeed as anticipated. The Harding is of the same principle, and it is not likely it will succeed any better.

#### A Half-Dozen Questions.

1. What is an Adel-Carniolan?

2. What is an Albino?

3. How are Italians crossed, so as to increase the bands from 3 to 4 or 5? Is it an outcross, or are they still pure Italians?

4. I would be pleased to know what is thought of the Adels and the Albino bees. If I understand it rightly, Adels are pure Carniolans, but yellow, while Albinos are Italians crossed with Carniolans.

5. How much per colony should be stored per day on buckwheat less than  $\frac{1}{4}$  mile away?

6. Is Washington, Oregon, and Idaho favorable bee-countries? If so, of what does the pasturage consist?

BANDS.

ANSWERS.—1. Different strains of bees may have different names, either from the name of the man that breeds them, the place where they are bred, or a name supposed to be descriptive in some way. The word "Adel" is applied to one strain of Carniolans which probably differ nothing in appearance from other Carniolans, but may differ as to special qualities.

2. An albino is an animal or a man or bee which lacks the coloring matter in some or all parts of its integuments, and so approaches white in color.

3. Those who have bred for bands could tell how they proceeded, but it might not be far out of the way to guess that constant selection was made of those having brightest or most bands, and if Italians only were used, of course the product would still be Italians, and if different races were crossed they would have the not strictly correct title of hybrids.

4. Of late, few expressions of opinion have been given, but possibly this may call forth expressions from those who have had experience. The opinion prevails that albinos of any kind, being deficient in coloring matter, are likely to be deficient in vigor.

5. A rough guess might set 5 to 10 pounds as a good day's work for a strong colony. But that's only a guess, and the field is entirely clear for any one to answer who has any definite knowledge about it.

6. Some reports have been very favorable. Will some one from that region in question answer as to the pasturage?

**The Names and Addresses** of all your bee-friends, who are not now taking the Bee Journal, are wanted at this office. Send them in, please, when sample copies will be mailed to them. Then you can secure their subscriptions, and earn some of the premiums we have offered. The next few months will be just the time to easily get new subscribers. Try it earnestly, at least.

**Beeswax Wanted.**—If you want to get cash for your beeswax promptly, ship it to the publishers of the Bee Journal. We are now paying 25 cents per pound for good yellow beeswax delivered at our office. Address, GEORGE W. YORK & Co., 118 Michigan St., Chicago, Ill.

**The American Bee Journal**  
 OLDEST BEE-PAPER IN AMERICA

GEORGE W. YORK, Editor.  
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## Editorial Comments.

**The Supply Dealers** will have our sympathy during the next six or eight weeks. They will be abused for many delays in shipping goods that they can't help. A great number of bee-keepers wait until the very last minute before ordering, and then of course they want their goods shipped almost by telegraph. And if they don't come on time, the poor supply dealer will catch it.

Why can't more bee-keepers learn that they run a big chance of having their orders delayed when left so late? No supply dealer, if he is at all busy during May and June, can fill all orders the same day they are received.

So, reader, if you are among the late-in-ordering ones, don't blame the overworked dealer, if your goods are not shipped to you by return train, for he may be doing his very best to accommodate all, and in so doing pass many a restless night.

**Special to Our Newer Subscribers.**—It seems that about once a month it is necessary to say something for the benefit of new subscribers about asking questions which they expect to be answered in the Bee Journal.

Now, let it be clearly understood that every subscriber to this journal has a perfect right to ask questions about bees—in fact, we want them to feel free to do so. But, we also desire them to remember that it is quite impossible for us to keep answering the very simple questions every week, that would not be asked if the person owned and read a good bee-book. For instance, just recently several asked whether it was the old or a new queen that leaves with the swarm. Also, as to the length of a queen's life. Now, all such questions and similarly simple ones, are fully answered in any one of the standard bee-books, and no one should begin to keep bees without first having read about the rudiments of the business, and also subscribing for a good bee-paper.

Again, such questions as these are often sent in: Please give me the best method of managing nuclei, giving instructions how to proceed from the time the nucleus is received until it is built up to a strong colony. Also, give me the best plan for rearing pure Italian queens, and the best plan for introducing them into colonies of black bees. What time of the year should it be done? etc.

If ever we get real "tired," it is when we receive such questions as the above. It reminds us of the question that a farmer asked Dr. Miller, at the meeting of the Farmers' Institutes at Springfield, Ill., last February, viz.: "Doctor, please explain your system of bee-keeping?" Now, of course, that was easy enough—if the Doctor were given two or three

weeks' time to do it in. You might as well ask a farmer to tell in ten minutes all about his system of farming and growing all kinds of crops!

Then take that question about the best plan of rearing queens. It required a whole book of over 150 pages for G. M. Doolittle to tell how he rears queens. And yet a beginner in bee-keeping thinks of course we ought to print such a book and several others each week, and send it all for less than two cents—the price of a single copy of the Bee Journal! Why, we could better afford to give every new subscriber two or three of the best books, and end it there—and also go out of business in a short time—all for the fun of helping out new bee-keepers who won't spend a few cents for a book that will tell them all about the first principles of bee-keeping, as well as a few of the plans for doing some of the more particular work, such as queen-rearing, Italianizing, etc.

Some one may ask: "Well, what are you publishing the Bee Journal for, if not to tell us all about bee-keeping?" We answer that, take it the year through, we probably do touch upon nearly every phase of bee-culture, besides giving the latest improvements, and many short cuts in making bee-work a success, but we are not here to repeat week after week all that has appeared in the Bee Journal in detail during the past 36 years of its existence, much of which has been put in handy and permanent form in the books devoted to bee-keeping.

We have not written the foregoing in order to lead up to a book offer, but in sheer self-defense, and in order that our new readers may relieve themselves of the trouble of asking simple questions about bees, we will say that to any one whose subscription is paid to Jan. 1, 1898, or beyond, we will mail them a copy of Prof. Cook's "Bee-Keepers' Guide" for only 75 cents. This is a cloth-bound book of over 450 pages, that retails for \$1.25, but until July 1st we will send it for just 75 cents to those paid-in-advance subscribers we have mentioned. Be sure to get this book, and then study it thoroughly, in connection with the Bee Journal, and thus inform yourself on the bee-question.

**The Laying of a Queen.**—A colony of bees was watched from January to December, 1891. On Jan. 1 there appeared to be about 10,000 bees in the hive, at the end of the season about 20,000. For the whole time there were about 890 eggs laid per day, or for the season of the honey-flow (March 3 to Aug. 3) the number of eggs per day averaged 1,760. The highest daily average was (March 18 to April 10) 2,600. The colony did not swarm, and over 300,000 bees were hatched and past away. The colony produced 180 pounds of honey.—*Gard. Chron.*, 21, No. 5252, p. 41.

**Queen-Bees Stay in the Mails.**—On page 280 we referred to a report that had gotten out that queen-bees would possibly be excluded from the mails in this country; and that the matter had been taken up by the New Union, which exists for the express purpose of looking after the interests of bee-keepers. General Manager Secor immediately sent the following to headquarters:

FOREST CITY, Iowa, May 10, 1897.

TO THE POSTMASTER GENERAL, Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:—It has been reported that the postal authorities contemplate issuing an order excluding queen-bees from the mails. I shall be glad to know whether or not there is any foundation for this rumor, and, if so, the reason for so doing. If not true, it will not be necessary for me to enter into any argument to prove that the liberal rules heretofore, and now (I hope) in force, have been of incalculable benefit, not only to a very large number of bee-keepers, but also indirectly to agriculture and horticulture, and that a revocation of them would work a real injury to the producers of honey and the other industries named.

If any demand is made by any class of people, or by postmasters, for their exclusion from the mails, I would like to be



permitted to present the matter from the standpoint of the bee-keeper, and to show the Department our view of the matter.

I am sure that we can convince you that no one can be injured, and that no mail matter can be injured by transmission through the mails of queens under your former instructions and rulings.

But as this letter is merely to inquire as to the truth of a rumor, which I sincerely trust is groundless, I will not argue the case in advance.

Yours truly,

EUGENE SECOR.

General Manager U. S. B.-K. U.

Attach to the above, Mr. Secor promptly received this very satisfactory reply:

POSTOFFICE DEPARTMENT—

Office of the General Supt. Railway Mail Service.

WASHINGTON, D. C., May 14, 1897.

Respectfully returned to Mr. Eugene Secor, Forest City, Iowa.

There must be some mistake about this matter, as no one at the Department has any knowledge of a change of the regulations excluding queen-bees being contemplated.

JAMES E. WHITE,

General Supt.

We are glad that it was only a "mistake," for it would be a great calamity to bee-keepers and others, as Mr. Secor says, should the present ruling concerning queen-bees be revoked. We believe our Postoffice Department (which is perfection itself) would not do anything to unjustly interfere with the success of any honorable business.

**Square vs. Oblong Sections.**—On the first page of this number we show an illustrated comparison between the usual square section and the oblong, or what is sometimes called the "tall," section.

Some leading bee-keepers are using the oblong section, and prefer it for several reasons. Mr. Doolittle, we believe, uses it. The Danzenbaker hive takes the oblong section, 32 of them in a single-tier super. We expect to give this "tall" section and the Danzenbaker super a trial this year, so as to know for ourselves whether or not we prefer them. We will also use some of the much-talkt-of drawn foundation in these sections, and see how nearly the total destruction of the pursuit of bee-keeping is threatened by its use, as some of the would-be apian prophets have foretold!

We are indebted to the kindness of Gleanings in Bee-Culture for the use of the beautiful engravings on the first page this week.

Here is what Mr. Doolittle said awhile ago in Gleanings, concerning his preference in the way of a section, and his reasons therefor:

"My own preference is a section  $3\frac{1}{2} \times 5\frac{1}{2} \times 1\frac{1}{2}$  inches, this holding a pound as nearly as may be when well filled. This size is used in single-tier wide frames with separators, so as to secure each comb built perfectly in the box. My reasons for preferring them are, that more in number can be set over a given space than can those of less depth; besides, such a cake of honey is of symmetrical proportions, and pleasing to the eye, it being just sufficient to set on the table for an ordinary family, and, covering more surface, apparently, to look at, does not give a scrumpt appearance or pattern. Why I prefer them to the larger size is, they bring from two to three cents per pound more in market."

**Beginners in Bee-Keeping** make their annual appearance as regularly as the spring-time. And they are a hopeful lot of people. We have met several of them this spring, as usual. We rather like them. We started with bees once upon a time, ourselves. So did Dr. Miller. And Doolittle. And Dr. Miller says it's just as much fun now to watch the bees get to work each spring as it was nearly 40 years ago. We believe him, even if we are not much more than half as old as he is. (It probably is more fun for the bees to watch the Doctor get to work each spring!)

But we started out to say a few words about the enthusi-

astic beginner. We want to advise him not to invent a new hive the first season. Wait at least two or three years, until you get a little acquainted with the habits of bees. Perhaps by that time you'll discover that bees will do pretty well in almost any of the hives already in use.

Another thing, don't try to go too fast into bee-keeping. Better grow into it. For instance, start with say two colonies; to begin the second year you might have four, and thus let your apiary grow with your experience. You'll stand a better chance of making a success of it in that way.

Above all things, read very carefully that bee-book. Don't borrow one and then forget to return it, but own one yourself. The book will help you to understand your bees, and vice versa.

## The Weekly Budget.

MR. J. T. HAIRSTON, of Indian Territory, writing May 18, said:

"I suppose I could get along in a way without the 'Old Reliable,' but I don't see how I could. My bees have had the swarming fever this spring—35 swarms from 9 colonies. But they have stopt, and are getting down to business."

EDITOR MERRILL, of the American Bee-Keeper, when announcing the selection of Hon. Eugene Secor as General Manager of the United States Bee-Keepers' Union, said: "Every bee-keeper in this country should join the Union." That's good advice, surely. We hope that several thousand of Editor Merrill's subscribers will send their membership fees to him to be forwarded to the New Union.

MR. F. BUSSLER, a progressive bee-keeper in Old Mexico, writing us May 11, said:

"I have now some bees, comb and extracted honey in the exhibition in Cojoacan, and it looks as if people here had never seen such things. Mexico is a wonderful land for honey, and could export tons and tons of the nicest kind. Later on I will report more about the exhibition. Long may the banner of the American Bee Journal wave!"

MR. J. S. SCOTT, of Utah Co., Utah, had this to say when writing us May 15:

"I have only one objection to the American Bee Journal, and that is, in allowing Doolittle to be so cruel to his little old man, by making him stand so long in one position, with that woe-begone, tired look. Say, Doolittle, can't you turn his face to the wall for awhile? I am sure he would present a better appearance."

"The bees in Utah county have wintered better than ever before. They are having a good run on fruit-bloom, and are coming to the front in fine style."

THE A. I. ROOT COMPANY report, in Gleanings for May 15, that their bee-supply business is booming. They have this to say about it:

"We never had quite such a run of orders as we are having this spring. If we were no better organized for taking care of so much business promptly than we were in 1890, we should be hopelessly behind. As it is, we are working a man in every available place; and in the wood-working department two turns of workmen keep the machinery going 22 hours out of the 24. In the shipping department there are several who are working 14 or 15 hours almost every day to get orders off promptly. By these extra efforts we are able to keep the goods going out as fast as the orders come in, so that orders do not remain in our hands unfilled very long."

We shall be glad to announce in this column the present condition of business of any of our other regular advertisers if they will let us know about it. We hope that all are having a satisfactory trade this year.

☞ This is a good time work for new subscribers.

# BEE-BOOKS

SENT POSTPAID BY

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## Question-Box.

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**Query 50.**—I have sections that were filled with foundation two years ago. Would you put them on the hives this season, or what would you do with them?—MINN.

E. France—Use them if they are clean.

Mrs. L. Harrison—Put them on the hives.

W. G. Larrabee—I would put them on the hive.

R. L. Taylor—I should use them on the hives.

Wm. McEvoy—Put them on the hives this season.

Chas. Dadant & Son—Yes, use all that are not soiled.

A. F. Brown—If clean, use them; otherwise not.

P. H. Elwood—If well preserved, I would use them.

Eugene Secor—Yes, if I did not have a mill of my own.

Dr. C. C. Miller—If they have been nicely kept, I'd use them.

J. M. Hambaugh—If they have not been damaged, I would use them.

G. M. Doolittle—Put them on the hive. What else should you do with them?

Jas. A. Stone—If they have been kept free from dust, I think they will do to use.

Rev. M. Mahin—I would expose them to a degree of heat that will almost melt them, and put them on the hives.

Prof. A. J. Cook—I have not found bees to work well on such old sections. I think you would probably use them at a loss.

Dr. A. B. Mason—I would use them after they had been kept for awhile in a temperature a little below the melting point of the wax.

G. W. Demaree—I would use them if the wax is white and clean. I use a tin plate heated by a lamp to reduce the depth of the cells.

H. D. Cutting—It would all depend on their condition. I have used them two years old with good results. Place in the sun for a short time before putting on the hive.

Dr. J. P. H. Brown—If the sections are clean, and the foundation is not wax-moth eaten, I would use them. But before using, I would allow the sun to warm them up.

C. H. Dibbern—If the sections are clean and the foundation is not glazed over with propolis, I would use them; otherwise, cut out the foundation and burn up the sections.

Emerson T. Abbott—I give it up. The best way to do is to put the fresh foundation in the sections when you need them. That is, if you want to secure honey that is first-class in every respect.

J. E. Pond—If they are clean and nice, use them again; if not, work the wax up, and use the sections for firewood. It don't pay to fool with anything in the comb honey line that is not delicate and dainty.

J. A. Green—I would not use them. I think it would pay better to start with fresh. If you do use them, put in each super half fresh and half old. Then you will know for yourself, and we would like to have you report.



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Carroll Co., N. H., May 18.

**Good Weather for Honey-Flow.**

I took 120 pounds of honey from 3 hives May 18, and sold it here yesterday quite readily. The weather is good for the honey-flow.

JOHN M. RYAN.

Marshall Co., Ala., May 20.

**Working on Sweet Clover.**

Bees are doing well—just beginning to work on yellow sweet clover and white clover. White sweet clover will be in bloom in about two weeks.

J. L. GANDY.

Richardson Co., Nebr., May 19.

**New Honey Taken Off.**

Bees are working in good shape. I put a swarm into a dovetailed hive April 16; ten days after I put on supers, and on May 12 I took off 24 pounds of as nicely capped honey as one could wish to see.

C. A. WALES.

Tipton Co., Tenn., May 13.

**Early Swarming.**

It seems to me all my bees are ahead of my work. I have already hived a swarm May 6, and another prime swarm May 16, and I expect the rest of the colonies to swarm any day.

CHAS. GRIESBACH.

Clay Co., Ind., May 21.

**Working in the Supers**


Bees are doing finely. The pasture, roadsides and every nook and corner is growing white with the bloom of clover, and the bees are just humming. Some colonies are working in the supers—10 days early for this locality.

W. N. KING.

Greene Co., Mo., May 17.

**Experience in Transferring.**

I am well pleased with the American Bee Journal; it is a source of much information to me. I started in bee-keeping in the spring of 1896 with one colony of bees, after reading and re-reading "A B C of Bee-Culture" and "Langstroth on the Honey-Bee, Revised by Dadant." I purchased 12 colonies in the fall of 1896, in chaff hives which I wintered out-doors, and only lost one colony. I preferred to transfer them to the Quinby closed-end frame, so I could have my hives all alike, and frames and supers. It came off very warm in March, and I went at them to transfer them. To commence with, I bored  $\frac{1}{8}$ -inch holes in the new Quinby frames, about 4 inches apart, and got some thorns about  $2\frac{1}{2}$  to 3 inches long, and thorned in a set of combs, and went to the first hive to transfer. I moved the old hive off of the stand and set the new one in its place. I smoked the colony a little, and



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put a chaff cushion of 4 to 6 inches in thickness.

The hive-covers are made with cleats, and when I put them on I put a piece of section on the top of the cap to make a little crack to admit air, thus preventing dampness. If the covers fit down tightly, dampness will accumulate from the breath of the bees.

The hives thus prepared were left upon the summer stands, which consists of the height of two bricks, one upon the other at the back of the hive, and one in front; this inclination is sufficient to cause the moisture to run out of the front. Where there were rows of hives placed closely together, I wedged in leaves and grass between them, and put a board to keep the rain from running down between them.

I've no hives containing dead bees to clean, and I received a joyous welcome from all the colonies on my return home, April 13.

MRS. L. HARRISON.

Peoria Co., Ill.

#### A Young Kansas Bee-Keeper.

Our bees wintered well, losing one colony out of 27, on account of queenlessness.

White clover is beginning to bloom, and promises well. Bees began swarming April 23. We had two swarms that date. They both went together yesterday. We had three swarms that went together, but we have the queens' wings clipped, so that don't worry us.

Here comes another one. I will see you later.

Well, they are landed safely home, just as if nothing had happened.

Well, Mr. Editor, I am doing lots of talking for a lad of 13. O, yes, here comes another swarm. Well, I will see you in a few minutes.

They are safely landed back home. It is growing a little cloudy, so I think I will be able to finish my letter. What I want to say is, father is a railroad man, and is gone from home most of the time. So I will try to make a big bee-man, if the editor will give me a show. Good by for this time.

GEORGE ROBY.

Neosho Co., Kans., May 10.

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## HONEY and BEESWAX

### MARKET QUOTATIONS.

**Chicago, Ill., May 6.**—There is very little honey coming to the market, and fine lots of white comb brings 13c. Yet only a little is taken by the dealers, the season for it being over with the coming of strawberries, which are now plentiful. Extracted brings about late quotations, with beeswax in active demand at 27@28c. for best grades.

**San Francisco, Calif., May 6.**—White comb, 9-10c.; amber, 5-7c. Extracted, white, 5½c.; light amber, 3½-4c.; dark tulle, 2½c. Beeswax, fair to choice, 25-27c.

**New York, N. Y., May 20.**—Old crop is well cleaned up, both comb and extracted, and our market is in good shape for new crop, which is now beginning to arrive from the South. It is in fairly good demand at 50@52c. per gallon for average common grade, and 55@60c. for better grades.

Beeswax is rather quiet at 26@27c.

**Detroit, Mich., May 1.**—Fancy white comb, 11@12c.; No. 1, 10@11c.; fancy amber, 9@10c.; No. 1, 8@9c.; dark, 7@8c. Extracted, white, 5@6c.; amber, 4@5c.; dark, 4c. Beeswax, 25@26c. Demand is slow for honey, and plenty in commission house.

**Kansas City, Mo., May 20.**—Fancy white, 12@13c.; No. 1, 11@12c.; fancy amber, 10@11c.; No. 1, 9@10c.; fancy dark, 8@9c.; No. 1, 8c. Extracted, white, 5@5½c.; amber, 4½@5c.; dark, 3½@4c. Beeswax, 25c.

**Cincinnati, Ohio, May 7.**—Demand is slow for all kinds of honey. Comb honey, 9@14c. for fair to choice white; extracted, 3½@6c. There is a fair demand for beeswax at 22@25c. for good to choice yellow.

**Minneapolis, Minn., May 1.**—Fancy white, 11@12c.; No. 1 white, 10@11c.; fancy amber, 9@10c.; No. 1 amber, 8@9c.; fancy dark, 7@8c.; No. 1 dark, 6-7c. Extracted, white, 6@7c.; amber, 5@5½c.; dark, 4@5c. Utah white extracted, 5@5½c. Beeswax, 23@26c. Market fairly steady for comb and better for extracted than for some time.

**Philadelphia, Pa., May 1.**—Fancy white comb, 12-13c.; fancy amber, 8-9c.; No. 1, 8c.; fancy dark, 7-8c. Extracted, white, 5-7c.; amber, 4-5c.; dark, 3½-4c. Beeswax, 25c. Season is getting over for comb honey—very little demand. Extracted in good demand.

**St. Louis, Mo., May 1.**—Fancy comb, 12@13c.; No. 1 white, 11@11½c.; amber, 9@10½c.; dark, 7@8½c. Extracted, white, in cans, 6@7c.; amber, in barrels, 4@4½c.; extra, 5c.; dark, 3@4c. Good demand for barrel stock—comb slow sale. Beeswax, 23@23½c.—prime finds ready sale at 23½c.

**Albany, N. Y., May 1.**—Fancy white, 12-13c.; No. 1, 11-12c.; fancy amber, 9-10c.; No. 1, 8-9c.; fancy dark, 7-8c.; No. 1, 6-7c. Extracted, white, 5-6c.; dark, 3½-4c. Demand is all that could be expected at this season. Stock on hand small.

**Indianapolis, Ind., May 1.**—Fancy white 14-15c.; No. 1 white, 12-13c. Extracted, white, 6-7c. Beeswax, 22-25c. Demand is fair for grades quoted, but no demand for inferior grades.

**Buffalo, N. Y., May 7.**—Strictly fancy comb, 1-pound, mostly 10 and 11c. today. Demand is only fair at present. Other grades range from 5@9c. Extracted, 4@5c.

**Boston, Mass., May 1.**—Fancy white, 13-14c.; No. 1, 11-12c. Extracted, white, 6-7c.; amber, 5-6c. Beeswax, 25c.

**Cleveland, Ohio, Feb. 20.**—Fancy white, 14½@15c.; No. 1 white, 12½@13c. Extracted, white, 6@7c.; amber, 4½@5½c. Beeswax, 22@25c.

There is not very much honey in our market. Selling rather slow. Demand beginning to be a little better. Think trade will be fair in this line this fall.

Please Send Us the Names of your neighbors who keep bees, and we will send them sample copies of the BEE JOURNAL. Then please call upon them and get them to subscribe with you, and secure some of the premiums we offer.

## List of Honey and Beeswax Dealers.

Most of whom Quote in this Journal.

### Chicago, Ill.

R. A. BURNETT & Co., 163 South Water Street.

### New York, N. Y.

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### Kansas City, Mo.

O. C. CLEMOMS & Co., 423 Walnut St.

### Buffalo, N. Y.

BATTERSON & Co., 167 & 169 Scott St.

### Hamilton, Ill.

CHAS. DADANT & SON.

### Philadelphia, Pa.

WM. A. SELSER, 10 Vine St.

### Cleveland, Ohio.

WILLIAMS BROS., 80 & 82 Broadway.

### St. Louis, Mo.

WESTCOTT COM. CO., 213 Market St.

### Minneapolis, Minn.

S. H. HALL & Co.

### Milwaukee, Wis.

A. V. BISHOP & Co.

### Boston, Mass.

E. E. BLAKE & Co., 57 Chatham Street.

### Detroit, Mich.

M. H. HUNT, Bell Branch, Wayne Co., Mich.

### Indianapolis, Ind.

WALTER S. POWDER, 162 Massachusetts Ave.

### Albany, N. Y.

CHAS. MCCULLOCH & Co., 380 Broadway.

### Cincinnati, Ohio.

C. F. MUTH & SON, cor. Freeman & Central Aves.

## Doctor's Hints

By Dr. PEIRO,

100 State Street, CHICAGO, ILL.

**Snakes.**—This is the time of year when Mr. Reptile comes out of his hole to hunt frogs, toads, and other delicate morsels suitable for his famished condition after a winter's fast. Therefore, striped snake will be seen more often, grass and weeds not yet being high enough to hide him. But you need have no fear of him. Let him go in peace, and he will give you a wide birth. If you should take hold of him and he does bite you, prompt washing in the cold creek-water will make all right.

**"Darning Needles."**—How afraid we used to be of those big flying bugs—they carry a "needle and thread" to sew our eyes and ears up—we were told. What nonsense! They are as harmless as a kitten. But, O how they do feed on mosquitos and gnats! So you see they are just the friends you want around. They are very pretty, too, but die in 48 hours, they say.

**Poison Ivy** afflicts some persons very badly, while upon others it makes little or no impression. Just why this is so, no one knows. It is in June—when the ivy blooms—that it is worse. The pollen then blows all over, and persons especially susceptible to this poison will be affected even if several rods distant from the plants. It first irritates the skin, then red, burning patches form, and if on the face it sometimes swells and closes the eyes, like a bee-sting. Extract of hamamelis is very soothing, and cures in a few days.

**Mushrooms** are said, by those who know, to be poisonous. Now, in reality, there is only one kind I would scarcely dare eat, and that is the cardinal or "red-top" mushroom, and if I were very hungry I wouldn't hesitate long at that kind, too. But all the kind you are likely to find—the white, out in meadows, the big brown ones

under oak trees, the sponge, around old decaying stumps—yes, and the "puff balls," when hard and crisp. They are all excellent, cook with your steak, or nicely fried in hot butter.

**Swallowed a Frog!**—Well, what of it? Most likely you are mistaken, but if you have, nothing serious can come of it. The frog is to be pitted, as it cannot live 24 hours in your stomach. The acids necessary to digestion will kill it before that time if you don't vomit it up in much less time. Above all, when you accidentally swallow something strange—a tad-pole perhaps—don't be afraid or get excited. No bad results can come of it.

**Ear-Wigs** are said to run into your ears and go right into the brain. Nothing of the kind, little girl. It simply can't do it. The drum of the ear won't let it pass, and the bitter ear-wax makes the "wig" and all other vermin and bugs glad to get out of your ear, if they can. But if they get stuck in there, you just pour water, a little warm, into the ear until Mr. Bug is washed out. Don't get excited. Keep cool.

**Spruce Beer**—Yes, indeed, the kind I mean is splendid. Soak the twigs of black or sweet birch cut fine, over night in nice spring water, and the next day add a pound of sugar (or more, to the taste), then put in a little ginger, and the juice and skin of a big lemon. Let it stand 48 hours, and you'll have a delicious summer drink. If you don't live where the spruce grows, sassafras will do nearly as well.



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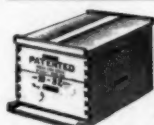
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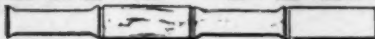
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